**ON THE ROAD: INCUBUS** (*ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE*) BONNER SPRINGS, KANSAS, SEPTEMBER 10; MARYLAND HEIGHTS, MISSOURI, SEPTEMBER 12; DETROIT, SEPTEMBER 14; DARIEN CENTER, NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 15; MANCHESTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE, SEPTEMBER 16; HARTFORD, SEPTEMBER 18; UNIVERSITY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA, SEPTEMBER 19; HOLMDEL, NEW JERSEY, SEPTEMBER 20; ITHACA, NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 22; BALTIMORE, SEPTEMBER 23; VIRGINIA BEACH, SEPTEMBER 25; CINCINNATI, SEPTEMBER 27



# noise

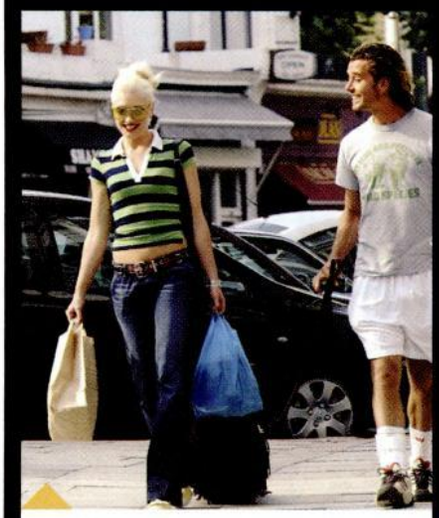
NEWS, GOSSIP, BANDS...YOUR MONTH IN MUSIC STARTS HERE

## backstage pass BY MARC SPITZ

### HIGHLY DEVOTED

"We're really boring, and it's all hype, and we only shave once a week," **Vines** lead singer/guitarist **Craig Nicholls** deadpans. By "really boring," he actually means "perilously self-destructive." The Aussie quartet celebrated the July release of its Top 20 debut, *Highly Evolved*, with a full day of problem drinking and public immolation. At happy hour, the guys were fueling up for an appearance on *Late Night With Conan O'Brien* when the first of several small disasters struck. "I was really drunk and smoked a cigarette the wrong way and nearly burnt my fucking tongue off," says Nicholls. Later that night, the Vines performed a raucous set at fabled punk toilet CBGB (**Albert Hammond Jr.** and **Nick Valensi** were on hand, in accordance with New York City Mayor **Mike Bloomberg**'s newly instituted two-Stroke minimum for all garage-rock-related events); but the budding stars were apparently too loaded to remember to play their hit single "Get Free." Partying at the Lotus Club afterward, Nicholls was ejected when he yowled in mock pain, rolled around on the floor, upended barstools, and poured water on his head while screaming, "I put out the fire!" Once outside, after failing to throw himself in front of a moving car, Nicholls landed in a trash can, where he had a moment of clarity, warning onlookers, "Never jump in the garbage." Note: We here at Backstage Pass have been waiting entirely too long to write about this kind of rock-star behavior again. Well done, mate.

The Vines' Craig Nicholls demonstrates the finer points of being a rock star: 1) drink copious amounts of alcohol; 2) enjoy a night out with female fans; 3) yell drunkenly in a foreign accent into female fan's ear



"I disagree, luv, it's impossible to be too adorable": about-to-be-married Gwen and Gavin out shopping in London

"You're right, this carpet *is* as soft as my non-transparent underarm deodorant!" Lil' Kim at the Piaget jewelry store in New York City, where she was taping the upcoming TV show *Livin' Large* ▸▸

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY SARAH LEWITINN (3); DENNIS VAN TINE/LONDON FEATURES; SPLASH NEWS



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